

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-16 and 18-22 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 4, 13 and 19 have been amended, Claims 2 and 4 are cancelled and new Claims 24-26 are submitted for consideration by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments overcome the objections/rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants request that the objection to Claim 13 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zimmerman (U.S.P.N. 3,340,161), is respectfully traversed.

Zimmerman does not disclose a layer comprising silica and at least one silicate. Zimmerman, therefore, cannot anticipate each and every aspect of the claimed invention.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-16, 18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kushida et al. (U.S.P.N. 5,091,224), is respectfully traversed.

Kushida et al do not disclose a layer comprising silica, at least one silicate and at least one dopant. Kushida, therefore, cannot anticipate each and every aspect of the claimed invention.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12-16 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Osman et al. (WO 00/06808), is respectfully traversed.

Osman requires a trivalent or higher chromate. The instant invention is a marked improvement over Osman by obviating the usage of such environmentally undesired compounds. Osman, therefore, cannot anticipate each and every aspect of the claimed invention.

This Application is related to commonly assigned U.S. Patent Nos. 6,149,794; 6,258,243; 6,153,080; and 6,322,687; and Application Serial Nos. 09/816,879; 09/755,072; 09/814,641; 10/211,094; and 10/211,029. Applicants respectfully request consideration of these patents and patent applications as well as the references cited therein.

Applicants believe that the claimed invention defines patentable subject matter and request issuance of a Notice of Allowability. Should there be any other



fee due in connection with this Response, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 15-0680 (Orscheln Management Co.). Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of Applicant would be desirable, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



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RCE Transmittal